

Message Text

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43

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-20 CEA-02 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-11

FRB-02 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 CIEP-02 SPC-03 STR-08

TRSE-00 LAB-06 SIL-01 OMB-01 SS-20 NSC-10 L-03 H-03

PA-04 PRS-01 USIA-15 EURE-00 DRC-01 /150 W

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P R 011256Z MAR 74

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8339

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USMISSION OECD PARIS

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EGEN, EEC, UK

SUBJECT: UK PARTICIPATION IN NEW WEEK'S EC MEETINGS

BEGIN SUMMARY UNTIL A NEW BRITISH GOVERNMENT IS FORMED, IT IS NOT POSSIBLE TO SAY HOW THE UK WILL HANDLE NEXT WEEK'S MEETING OF THE EC COUNCIL OR THE MINISTERIAL MEETING ON POLITICAL COOPERATION. IF THE NEW GOVERNMENT IS LABOUR, IT COULD WELL ASK THAT THE MEETINGS BE POSTPONED IN ORDER TO GIVE IT MORE TIME TO PREPARE FOR THEM. END SUMMARY

1. AS IS CUSTOMARY HERE, THE CIVIL SERVICE HAS PRE-LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PARED ALTERNATIVE BRIEFS FOR A CONSERVATIVE OR A LABOUR

GOVERNMENT, INCLUDING BRIEFS THAT COVER THE MAIN ISSUES THAT WILL ARISE AT THE EC MEETINGS ON MARCH 4-5. THESE BRIEFS PROVIDE BACKGROUND INFORMATION. THEY DO NOT TELL MINISTERS WHAT TO DO.

2. IF THE NEW GOVERNMENT IS LABOUR, IT WOULD NOT HAVE ENOUGH TIME TO PREPARE FOR NEXT WEEK'S MEETINGS. IT COULD SEND A MINISTER TO BRUSSELS WHO WOULD SIT AND LISTEN, BUT WOULD NOT BE ABLE TO TAKE AN ACTIVE PART, OR IT COULD ASK FOR A POSTPONEMENT. A REQUEST FOR POSTPONEMENT SEEMS MORE LIKELY. A LABOUR MINISTER WOULD FIND IT AWKWARD TO GO TO A COUNCIL MEETING AND SAY NOTHING ABOUT THE RENEGOTIATION OF THE TERMS OF ENTRY, AND THERE IS CLEARLY NOT ENOUGH TIME BETWEEN NOW AND MONDAY FOR A NEW GOVERNMENT TO WORK OUT ITS STAND ON RENEGOTIATION. (IT MIGHT BE EASIER FOR A LABOUR MINISTER TO ATTEND THE MORE INTERGOVERNMENTAL POLITICAL COOPERATION MEETING THAN THE COUNCIL.) OUR CONTACTS POINT OUT THAT IT IS ALSO POSSIBLE THAT THE FRG, AS COUNCIL PRESIDENT, COULD TAKE THE INITIATIVE TO POSTPONE ONE OR BOTH OF THE MEETINGS.

3. IF THE CONSERVATIVES FORM THE NEXT GOVERNMENT, THEY COULD, OF COURSE, ATTEND THE EC MEETINGS AS PLANNED.

4. FOREGOING IS BASED ON PRELIMINARY CHECKS MARCH 1 WITH FCO AND CABINET OFFICE OFFICIALS WHO HANDLE EC MATTERS.

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Message Attributes

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30 JUN 2005

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